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ON SOME GYRINIDAE (COL.)
FROM CONGO PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC (1)

Father Giovanni Onore, who stationed for some time as a Missionary in Congo People's Republic (Congo-Brazzaville), submitted some time ago 304 specimens of whirligig-beetles collected by him in December 1980 in a system of unnamed creeks in a small rain forest area near Dimonika, not far from the Pounga station (Brazzaville-Point Noire railroad) in the region of Dolise (= Loubome), south of the Majombe (2) Mountains, at about 200 m. a. s.

Our knowledge of Gyrinidae from this region of Africa is still poor; some account is given by BRINCK (1955, 1956); OCHS (1967) gave a list of the species collected by the 1963 Hungarian Soil Zoological Expedition to Congo-Brazzaville.

Onore's material adds two species new for the region (one of which was known upon the female holotype only) and another one described herewith as new.

Since all the material was collected in the same restricted locality in December 1980 I am not repeating locality data either in the text or in the explanations of figures. The list follows BRINCK 1956. All species belong to *Orectogyrus* Régimbart 1884: 385 and 439.

***Orectogyrus (Lobogyrus) prolongatus bechynei* Ochs 1954: 78**
(figs. 21-23, 36)

1 ♂, 1 ♀ (MSNG, Genova).

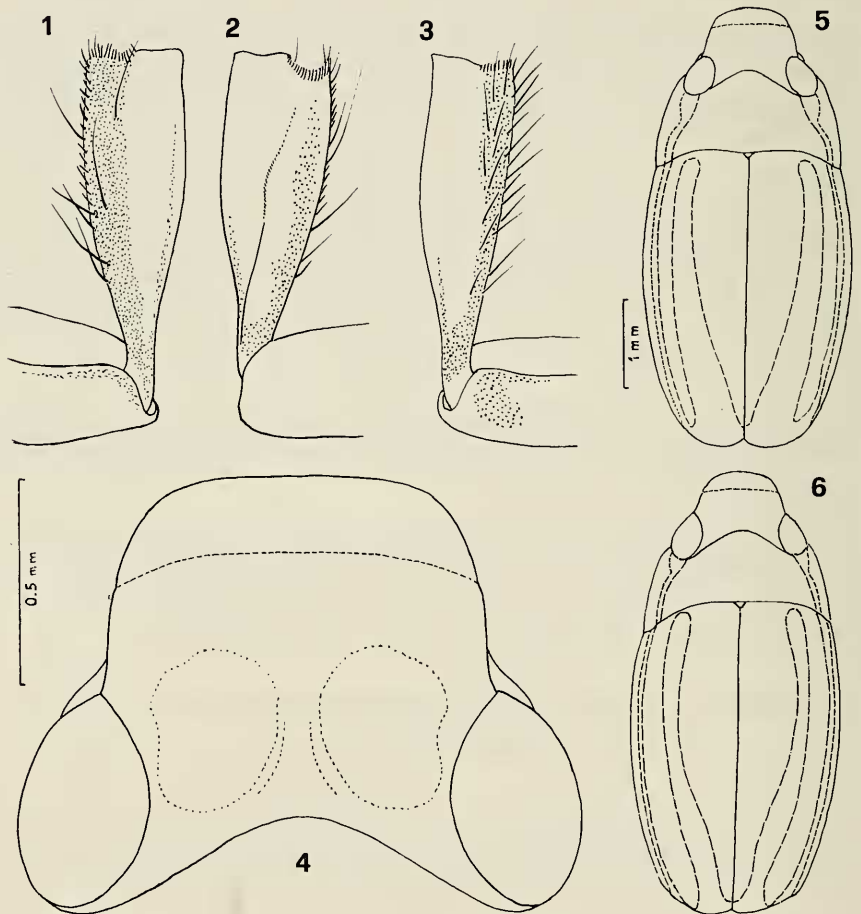
In the ♂ the elytral glabrous area is less than one half of the elytral length, its left side is slightly shorter and asymmetric with respect to

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(1) 26th contribution to the study of Hydradephaga.

(2) in some maps spelled « Mayombe ».

the right one; pubescence on pronotum and elytra golden, shining, with some coppery hues; reticulation of the glabrous area on elytra rather impressed, meshes small, narrow, transversely arranged; sutural angle squarish but well rounded at vertex; front tibiae with outer angle obtuse and completely rounded; the aedeagus (figs. 21, 22 and 23) meets BRINCK's fig. 19-A (1956: 77) except for a minor detail of the apex of penis (fig. 21). In the ♀ the shape of the common glabrous elytral area



Figs. 1-6 - *Orectogyrus (Clypeogyrus) demeryi intermedius* Ochs: 1: ♂ right anterior tibia, dorsally; 2: same, ventrally; 3: ♀ left anterior tibia, dorsally; 4: head, ♂, diagrammatic; 5: ♂ body outline, diagrammatic; 6: ♀, same.

and that of the truncature agrees perfectly with BRINCK's description (1956: 76 and 78), as well as the spermatheca (fig. 36), *ibid.* fig. 19-C.

The f. typ. is known from a unique ♀ (Haut Sénégal, Badoumbé, REGIMBART 1892: 722, pl. 19, fig. 23, BRINCK 1956: 77); ssp. *bechynei*, described from Kindia (now in the Republic of Guinea), OCHS l. cit., is known also from Nigeria (BRINCK 1956: 78); ssp. *quanzanus* Brinck 1951: 109 from R. Quanza, Angola. The ssp. *bechynei* is apparently new to Congo People's Republic.

Orectogyrus (Lobogyrus) spinifer n. sp.

(figs. 7-8, 11-14, 27-30, 33)

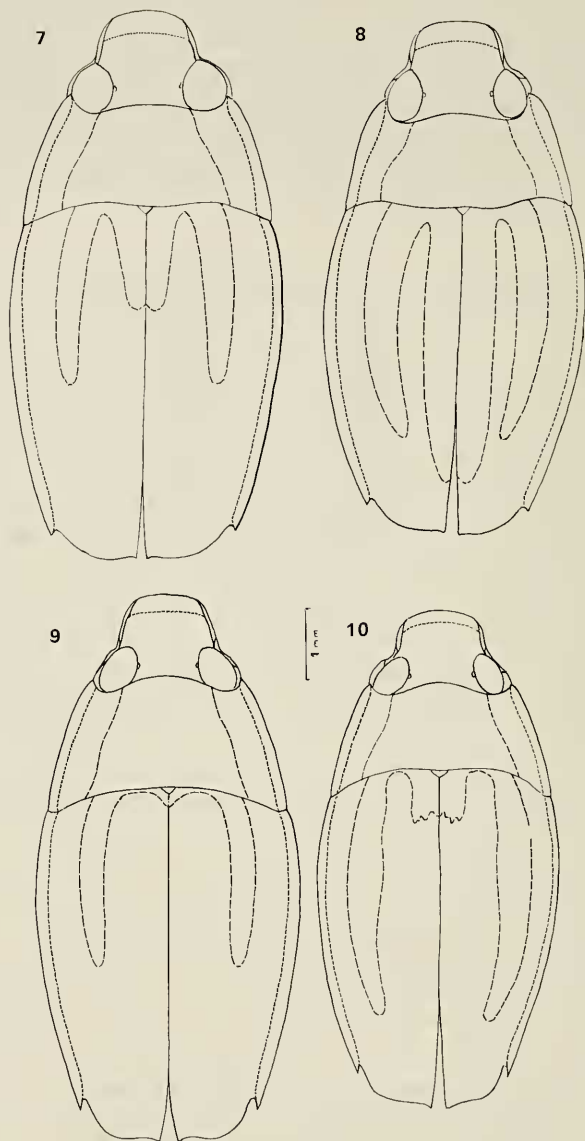
75 ♂♂, 79 ♀♀: ♂ holotype, ♀ allotype, 20 ♂♂ and 20 ♀♀ paratypes MSNG; 3 ♂♂, 6 ♀♀ paratypes MRAC (Tervuren); 23 ♂♂, 17 ♀♀ paratypes in Sanfilippo Coll., Genova; the remaining paratypes in my own collection, some of which to be deposited in MSNV (Verona).

Dimensions (mm): length (from tip of labrum to tip of elytra) ♂ 7,0-7,9; ♀ 6,9-7,3; max. width ♂ 3,8-4,0; ♀ 3,6-3,8.

The pertinence of the species to sbg. *Lobogyrus* is assessed by *a*) the anterior part of metasternum forming a hairy pit between the meso-coxal apophyses (fig. 19), *b*) the fourth urosternon with a tuft of hairs, developing into a longitudinal row of hairs from the distal half of the sixth urosternon to the tip of the eighth one, *c*) the apices of the meso-coxal apophyses subtriangular, narrowly rounded, those of the metacoxal apophyses definitely pointed, rather spinous (figs. 19-20) and *d*) the protibiae (figs. 11-14) and protarsi normal, not modified.

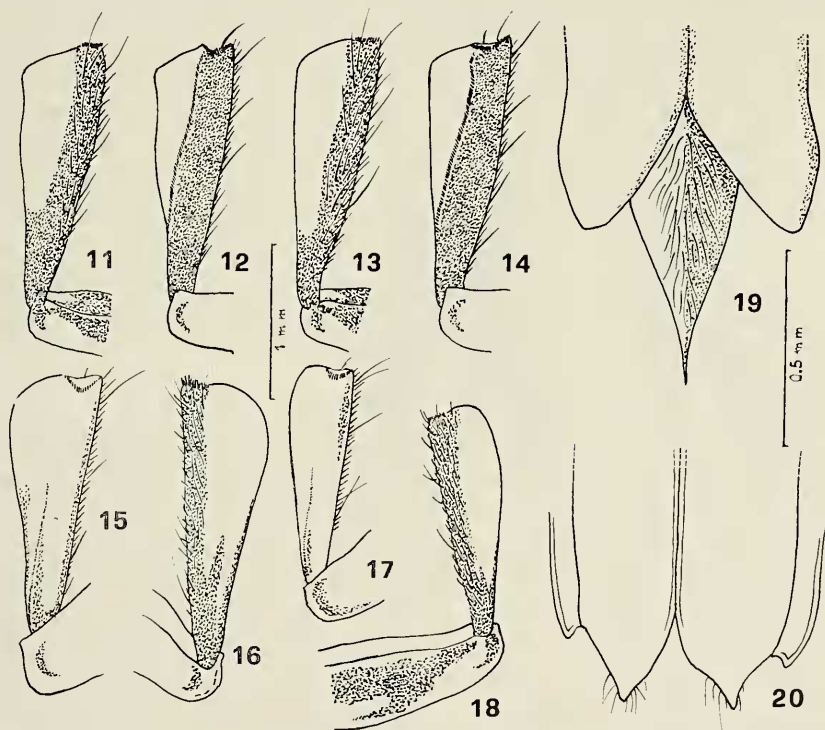
These subgenerical characters prevent the n. sp. from being assigned to sbg. *Orectogyrus* s. str. or sbg. *Mandrogryrus*; all other characters described below exclude it from other subgenera.

Description of ♂ holotype: body outline as in fig. 7; rather convex, the maximum thickness between the metasternum and the dorsum of elytra. Glabrous parts of dorsum bronzy with green hues on elytra and bluish-coppery ones on head and pronotum. Pubescence of glabrous areas golden-yellowish; the pubescent areas of dorsum are moderately shining, with bluish hues. Lateral margin of pronotum and of elytra yellow, not extending on to the sides on pronotum. Underside pale yellowish, lateral expansions of pro- and mesosternum darkened, almost black. Profemora dark brown at their upper and lower anterior margin;



Figs. 7-10 - *Orectogyrus (Lobogyrus) spinifer* n. sp.: 7: ♂ holotype, body outline, diagrammatic; 8: ♀ allotype, same; *O. (s. str.) basilewskyi* Guignot; 9: ♂ body outline, diagrammatic; 10: same of ♀.

anterior tibiae as in figs. 11-12, otherwise yellow with tarsi black. Apical article of maxillary palpi moderately elongate, about 3 times as long as broad, parallelsided, apically obliquely truncate. Labrum semicircular almost as broad as long, dark, without hues, with coarse and deep hair-punctures except at front margin and on a medial longitudinal strip, with densely and transversely arranged reticulation (meshes elongate, subrectangular), bordered by a conspicuous fringe of long black hairs. Clypeus and dorsal parts of head finely, densely and deeply reticulated, meshes isodiametric tending to become longer and stretched on the vertex; no primary punctuation; anterior margin of clypeus slightly convex; lateral furrowed edging narrow but well visible from above, with a few setae; frontal edging of almost equal width, well delimited



Figs. 11-20 - Anterior tibiae of: 11: *Orectogyrus (Lobogyrus) spinifer* n. sp. ♂ (left, dorsally); 12: same (right, ventrally); 13: ♀ (left, dorsally); 14: same (right, ventrally); 15: *O. (s. str.) basilevskyi* Guignot ♂ (left, dorsally); 16: same (ventrally); 17: ♀ (left, dorsally); 18: same (ventrally). *O. (Lobogyrus) spinifer* n. sp.: 19: mesocoxal process, ♀; 20: metacoxal process, ♀.

dorsally, densely hairy; no orbital furrows; very distinct (though small) orbital warts. Pronotum's glabrous area and shape as in fig. 7; reticulation of glabrous area with strongly impressed, isodiametric (trapezoidal) meshes, tending to become longitudinally stretched near the pubescent areas at sides; these areas with dense, rough and rinsed reticulation. Scutellum of normal size, reticulated (meshes small, almost circular at center, more stretched near angles). Elytral glabrous areas as in fig. 7; reticulation at center of the common sutural area as in fig. 43, at center of lateral costae as in fig. 45, with the orientation of meshes becoming more transverse towards apex; pubescent area with dense, irregular, rinsed, weak reticulation; sutural furrows weak but neat, sutural borders relatively broad, apically not elevated. Prosternum normally developed, small, anteriorly swollen, medially flat, its apophyse moderately long, distinctively keeled just before its apex. Mesosternum anteriorly bordered, without hairy tufts, laterally sinuate; posteriorly with a median longitudinal furrow. Mesocoxae in apposition for about 1/2 of their length, then abruptly divergent, their apophyses subtriangular and moderately rounded at apex; metacoxae in complete apposition, their apices notched, definitely pointed, divergent and apically spinous; the anterior part of metasternum forms a hairy pit between the mesocoxal apophyses, whose posterior part is normally vaulted.

Protibiae as in figs. 11-12, without longitudinal ridge. Protarsi parallelsided, normally widened. Aedeagus as in figs. 27-30; tip of penis with peculiar spatulate setae dorsally (fig. 28).

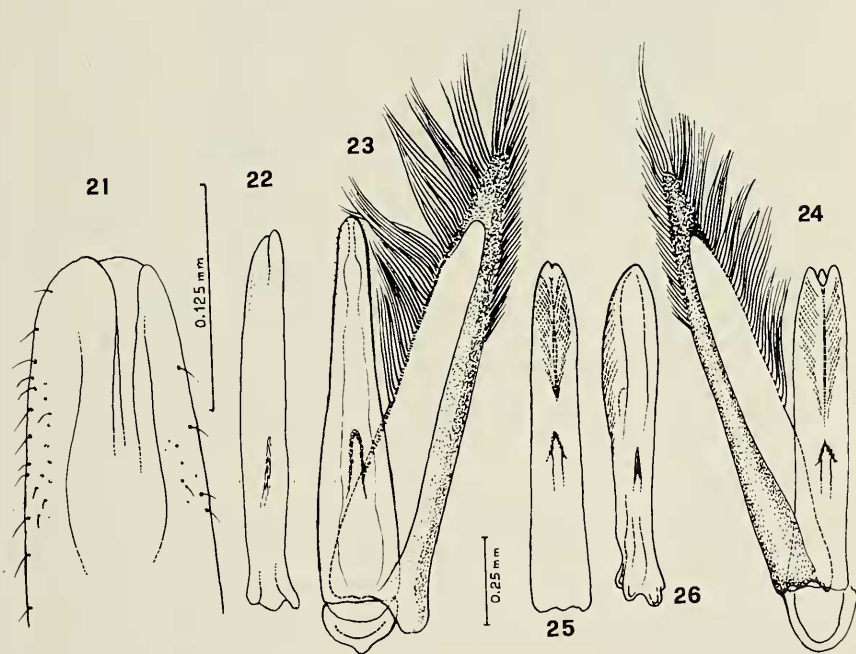
Description of ♀ allotype (only for differences versus ♂):

Body outline in fig. 8. Elytral reticulation at center of sutural glabrous area in fig. 44, on lateral glabrous costae at center in fig. 46; meshes are altogether narrower and more transversely arranged; pubescence paler, somewhat more silvery than golden. Apical article of maxillary palpi somewhat more dilated at middle, 2,6 times as long as broad, less obliquely truncate at apex. Prosternum less swollen anteriorly, apophyse less keeled. Mesocoxae in apposition for about 2 thirds of their length (fig. 19); metacoxal apophyses in fig. 20. The arrangement of hairy tufts and rows on urosterna has the same pattern as in ♂ but the hairy tuft on the 4th one is more developed and better visible. Anterior tibiae as in figs. 13-14; protarsi dark-brown. Spermatheca (fig. 33) tubular, its shaft narrowly rolled up and end piece rather swollen, much like that of *O. (L.) favareli* Guignot 1942: 87.

Variation: the rather long series shows a remarkable constance of the main characters, the only significant variation being in dimensions; it is quite obvious that the series was taken out of a dense population in the same creek and, probably, in the same pool.

Note: the ♀ allotype had a long Gordiacean in the abdomen; it is preserved in glycerine for anyone wishing to study it and deposited with the allotype in MSNG.

Affinities: the new species bears some peculiarities in common with *favareli* Guign.: a) dimensions; b) arrangement of the costiform glabrous elytral areas; c) presence of orbital warts and d) form of spermatheca. Mr. J. Decelle was kind enough to send for comparison the following material of *favareli* (MRAC, Tervuren): 1 ♀ parallotypus and 1 ♂ «I.R.S.A.C. - Mus. Congo, Kivu, T. Kalene, Bitale, Riv. Mioshi, 2000 m, 23.III.1950, G. Marlier, R. det H. 6108»; 1 ♂, 1 ♀



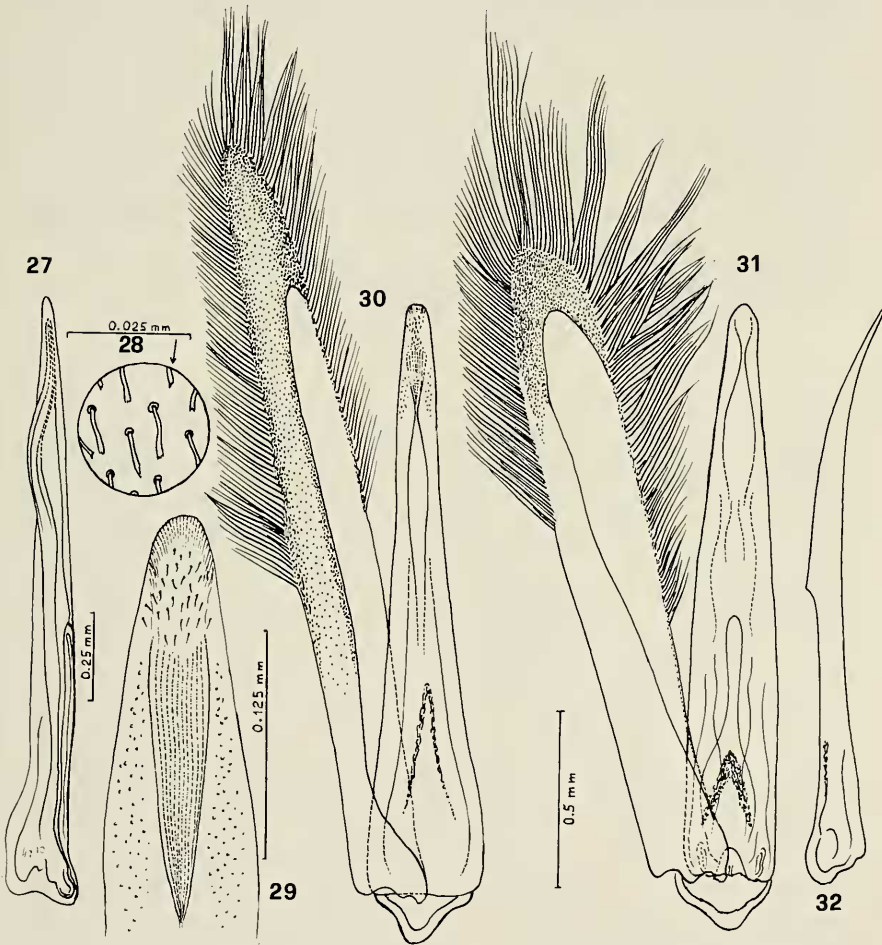
Figs. 21-26 - *Orectogyrus (Lobogyrus) prolongatus bechynei* Ochs: 21: distal part of penis, dorsally; 22: penis, laterally; 23: aedeagus, dorsally. *O. (Clypeogyrus) demeryi intermedius* Ochs: 24: aedeagus, dorsally; 25: penis of another specimen, to show a different shape of apex, dorsally; 26: penis, laterally.

« det. P. Brinck 1955, Coll. Mus. Congo - Kivu, Bitale, 1800 m, 15.VIII. 1952, R. Mainé »; 2 ♀♀ « I.R.S.A.C. Mus. Congo, Kivu, Riv. Nyakerera, terr. Kabare, 1800/1700 m, G. Marlier XI-1955, Forêt de transition, R. det. 7054 AA ». I also compared it with 1 ♂ *O. (L.) dimidiatus* (Castelneau 1835: 109) « Liberia - D. Ritsema 1886 » in MSNG kindly submitted by Dr. R. Poggi, Curator; this specimen was certainly determined by Régimbart and sent as a gift (D. = « dono ») by C. Ritsema to R. Gestro in 1886. A comparison was made also with *O. (L.) prolongatus bechynei* Ochs present in this material.

The conclusion is that *spinifer* can not be assigned to any of the six species groups of BRINCK (1956: 68-69); however I refrain from establishing another group; Brinck's key can be only slightly re-arranged as follows, putting *spinifer* in VI. *favareli*-group.

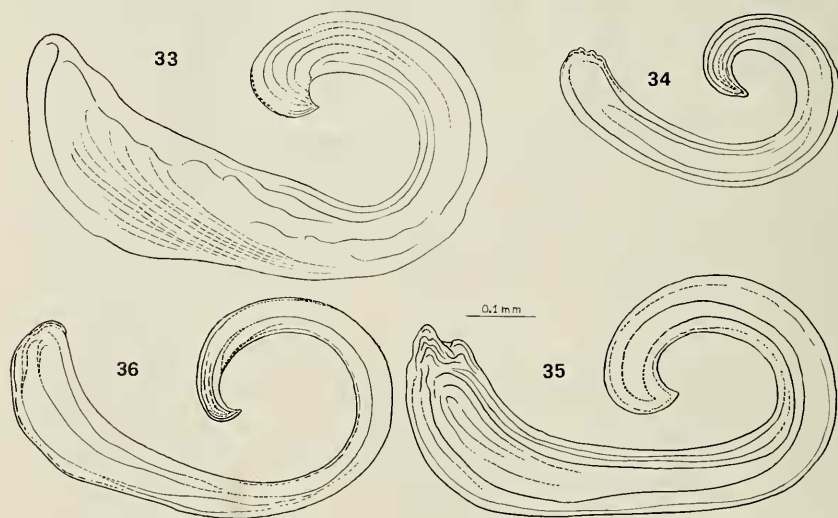
1. Meso- and metacoxal apophyses completely rounded or mesocoxal apophyses narrowly rounded at tip (fig. 19) and metacoxal apophyses spinous (fig. 20) 2
 - Meso- and metacoxal apophyses pointed (not spinous) or at least mesocoxal apophyses spinous 4
2. Anterior part of prosternum evenly elevated, its process (apophyse) canaliculate. Anterior part of metasternum with a hairy pit, posterior part vaulted, glabrous. 4th, 7th and 8th abdominal sterna with a median longitudinal row of hairs. No orbital warts I. *polli*-group
 - Anterior part of prosternum elevated, medially swollen, its apophyse keeled. Anterior part of metasternum either normal without hairy pit (*favareli*) or with such a hairy pit (*spinifer*), posterior part slightly vaulted, glabrous and not ridged. 4th-8th (*favareli*) or 4th, 6th-8th (*spinifer*) urosterna with a median longitudinal row of hairs. Orbital warts present, rudimental or lacking 3
3. Rather large (6,9-9 mm) and broad species with three costiform glabrous elytral areas. Orbital warts well developed. Receptaculum seminis with very swollen anterior part (fig. 33). Median lobe of aedeagus apically not cleft, either pointed or very sharply rounded (fig. 29) 3A: VI. *favareli*-group
 - Smaller (5,5-7,3 mm) and more elongate species; elytra with a common median glabrous space with lateral wings. Orbital warts lacking or rudimental. Anterior part of receptaculum not

- enlarged or only slightly so. Median lobe of aedeagus apically cleft (fig. 16-C, E, F in BRINCK 1956: 69) . . . II. *lionotus*-group
- 3A Meso- and metacoxal apophyses completely rounded, the metacoxal ones not notched. Glabrous part of pronotum very broad in both sexes with respect to the width of pronotal base (as 5:6); sutural common area on ♂ elytra broad, as long as the lateral



Figs. 27-32 - *Orectogyrus (Lobogyrus) spinifer* n. sp.: 27: penis, laterally; 28: pattern of spatulate chaetae at tip of penis, dorsally; 29: apex of penis, dorsally; 30: aedeagus. *O. (s. str.) basilewskyi* Guignot: 31: aedeagus, dorsally; 32: penis, laterally.

- costiform areas which are crescent-shaped, intercostal spaces extremely narrow; in ♀ the sutural glabrous area attains fully the apex of elytra; penis acutely terminated, laterally strongly swollen dorsally and with apex slightly bent upwards
 *favareli* Guignot 1942
- Mesocoxal apophyses apically narrowly rounded, not pointed (fig. 19); metacoxal apophyses spinous, laterally notched (fig. 20). Glabrous part of pronotum much narrower than pronotal base (as 2:3); elytral glabrous areas quite different, in particular the sutural costa of ♀ stops at about 1/7 of the elytral length from the apex, the sutural costa of ♂ is much shorter than the lateral costae and the intercostal spaces are much broader in both sexes (figs. 7-8). Penis narrowly rounded at apex (fig. 29), with a peculiar set of spatulate setae (fig. 28); it is moderately swollen apically and not bent upwards (fig. 27) *spinifer* n. sp.
4. unchanged, as in BRINCK l.c.: 69 (III. *trilobatus*-group; IV. *hawashensis*-group; V. *dimidiatus*-group).



Figs. 33-36 - Spermathecae: 33: *Orectogyrus (Lobog.) spinifer* n. sp.; 34: *O. (Clypeog.) demeryi intermedius* Ochs; 35: *O. (s. str.) basilevskyi* Guign.; 36: *O. (Lobog.) prolongatus bechynei* Ochs.

Orectogyrus (Clypeogyrus) demeryi intermedius Ochs 1928: 322
(figs. 1-6, 24-26, 34)

64 ♂♂, 54 ♀♀ (14 ♂♂, 7 ♀♀: MSNG; 2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀: MSNV; 20 ♂♂, 17 ♀♀ in Sanfilippo Coll., Genova; the remaining specimens in my own collection).

♂ range from 4,7 to 5,00, ♀♀ 5,0-5,5 mm; the elytral glabrous areas (figs. 5-6) agree with BRINCK's description (1956: 90); anterior tibiae as in figs. 1-3; head meeting exactly the pattern of subg. *Clypeogyrus* Guignot (fig. 4); aedeagus (figs. 24-26) agrees well with BRINCK's fig. 24-A, B (l.c.: 99). Spermatheca as in fig. 34.

This race was known from Haute Sanga (former French Congo), BRINCK l.c.: 97, today shown on maps as Rivière Sanagha originating in Cameroon; also known from the (formerly) French and British Cameroons, western and lower (formerly) Belgian Congo.

Orectogyrus (s. str.) basilewskyi Guignot 1951: 80
(figs. 9-10, 15-18, 31-32, 35, 37-40)

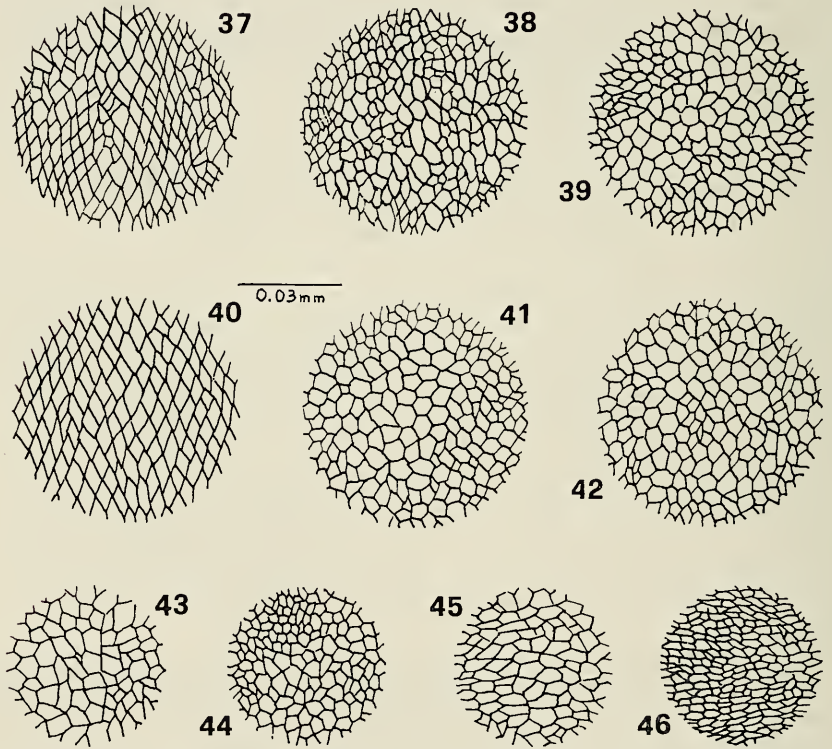
14 ♂♂, 16 ♀♀ (2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀ MSNG; 2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀ MRAC; 4 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀ in Sanfilippo Coll., Genova; the remaining specimens in my own collection).

This species, described from R. Lukunga, Bas Congo, Kimwane, is known so far only upon the unique female holotype (MRAC, Teruren), according to BRINCK 1956: 162 and OCHS 1967: 234.

The male and female used for this description (marked with a label with red asterisk) deposited in MSNG; according to a correct interpretation of the current I.C.Z.N. it is not possible or necessary to select a neallotype for the so far unknown male. I will give a short differential description of the male following BRINCK's pattern for the female (l.c.: 108).

Body outlines as in figs. 9 (♂) and 10 (♀); the series has the following dimensions: length ♂ 7,6-8,2 ♀ 7,0-8,0; width ♂ 3,7-3,9 ♀ 3,2-3,4. The male is more strongly convex than female; its glabrous parts of dorsum are brilliant, black on clypeus, with green hues on head and coppery ones on pronotum, again green on the two lateral costae; the periscutellar glabrous area is brilliant and black; dorsal pubescence coppery along the suture, silvery-golden at sides of pronotum and elytra; pubescent parts black and opaque; lateral margin of pronotum and of elytra yellow,

on pronotum not extending on to the sides and internally somewhat concave; colour of protibiae as in figs. 15-16 (♂) and 17-18 (♀); ♂ protarsi yellow; profemora yellow ventrally, narrowly browned at their upper anterior margin; underside completely yellow except for the peripheral portion of pro- and mesosternal expansions; anal urosternon slightly infuscated. Anterior tibiae as in figs. 15-16 (♂) and 17-18 (♀). The patterns of the reticulation on the lateral elytral costae near apex as in figs. 37 (♂) and 40 (♀); on the rudimental common sutural costa as in figs. 38 (♂) and 41 (♀); on pronotal disc as in figs. 39 (♂) and 42 (♀). The aedeagus



Figs. 37-46 - Patterns of microreticulation: 37: *Orectogyrus* (s. str.) *basilewskyi* Guign. ♂, at apex of lateral elytral costa; 38: same, ♂, at central rudimental costa; 39: same, ♂, center of pronotal disc; 40: same, ♀, at apex of lateral elytral costa; 41: same, ♀, medial common elytral costa; 42: same, ♀, at center of pronotal disc. *O. (Lobog.) spinifer* n. sp.: 43: ♂, at base of medial common elytral costa; 44: ♀, at base of medial common elytral costa; 45: ♂, center of lateral elytral costa; 46: ♀, center of lateral elytral costa.

is shown in fig. 31; laterally seen (fig. 32) it reminds that of *O. (L.) dahomeensis* Régimbart 1907: 238, a species to which initially I thought these specimens could be referred, due also to the shape of the reticulation of the sutural costae. Spermatheca (not figured yet) as in fig. 35. The peculiar rhomboidal reticulation of the lateral costae on their posterior part, which is rather regular in ♀♀ and somewhat irregular in ♂♂, as well as the structure of penis and its proportions versus the paramera, confirm BRINCK's opinion (l.c.: 162) about *basilewskyi* being a bona species. Due to the shape of ♂ rudimental sutural glabrous area it has nothing to do with *O. (s. str.) kaszabi* Ochs 1967: 232 or *endroedyi* Ochs ibid.: 233 (both have the common sutural costa as long as 2/3 of the elytra and quite different lateral costae); the penis of both is 2/3 the length of paramera (almost as long as paramera in *basilewskyi*); OCHS's descriptions however are quite insufficient to allow their proper fitting into the accurate key to species of Brinck; there are no reasons to modify it except the addition of the male characters as described herewith; for the time being therefore *basilewskyi* maintains its position as previously assigned by Brinck.

The species is new to Congo People's Republic.

The whirligig fauna of C.P.R. is now thus composed: *Dineutus (Spinodineutus) subspinosus* (Klug), *D. (S.) fauvei* Rég., *D. (s. str.) micans serra* Rég., *Aulonogyrus (Afrogyrus) bedeli subrufus* Ochs (OCHS 1967), *Orectogyrus (Allogyrus) decorsei* Rég. (BRINCK 1956), *O. (Clypeog.) demeryi intermedius* Ochs (ibid. and hoc opus), *O. (Lobogyrus) prolongatus bechynei* Ochs, *O. (L.) spinifer* n. sp. (hoc opus), *O. (s. str.) angularis acuminatus* Ochs (BRINCK 1956), *O. (s. str.) basilewskyi* Guign. (hoc opus), *O. (s. str.) specularis* Aubé, *O. (s. str.) kaszabi* and *endroedyi* Ochs, *O. (s. str.) conjungens* Rég. (OCHS 1967), *O. (Trichogyrus) constrictus* Rég. (BRINCK 1956).

A couple of other *Dineutus* and perhaps five *Orectogyrus* s.l. cited from « French Congo » might be present in today's territory of C.P.R., but the exact position of the related localities has to be checked.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. Thanks are expressed to M. J. Decelle (MRAC, Tervuren), Dr. R. Poggi (MSNG, Genova) and N. Sanfilippo (Genova) for the loan of material, advices and the review of the manuscript.

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- —, 1907 - same title, 3e supplement - *ibid.*, **76**: 137-245.

RIASSUNTO

Su alcuni Gyrinidae (Col.) della Repubblica Popolare del Congo.

Si riferisce su 304 Gyrinidae raccolti da Padre G. Onore (XII.1980) a Dimonika (Pounga, reg. Dolise, tra Brazzaville e Point Noire) in ruscelli di foresta pluviale: *Orectogyrus (Lobogyrus) prolongatus bechyneni* Ochs è nuovo per la R.P.C.; *O. (L.) spinifer* è nuova specie; *O. (Clypeogyrus) demeryi intermedius* Ochs è confermato anche per il Sud della R.P.C.; *O. (s. str.) basilevskyi* Guign. è nuovo per la R.P.C., se ne descrive il ♂ (sin qui non noto) e se ne confermano validità e status sistematico assegnati da BRINCK. Segue un elenco delle specie certe per la R.P.C.

SUMMARY

304 Gyrinidae collected by Father G. Onore (Dec. 1980) at Dimonika (Pounga, Dolise region, between Brazzaville and Point Noire) in rain forest creeks yielded *Orectogyrus (Lobogyrus) prolongatus bechyneni* Ochs (new to Congo People's Rep.), *O. (L.) spinifer* n. sp., *O. (Clypeogyrus) demeryi intermedius* Ochs (confirmed also for Southern C.P.R.) and *O. (s. str.) basilevskyi* Guign., new to C.P.R., whose male is described for the first time confirming its validity and position as assigned by BRINCK. A list follows of Gyrinidae known for C.P.R.